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LETTER DATED 18 AUGUST 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instruction of my Government, I would like to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council to assess the most recent evidence of Azerbaijani aggression against Armenia and to condemn Azerbaijan's continuing policy of expanding its war against Nagorny Karabakh to the borders of Armenia.

During the past 24 hours alone Azerbaijani artillery units have shelled the village of Karmiraghbiur in the Taush region of Armenia with heavy artillery (17 August, 1800-1930 hours); attacks were also directed towards defence positions in the Yeraskhavan area (18 August, 0130-0300 hours).

This morning, at 0706 hours local time, three SU-25 fighter jets of the Azerbaijani air force, in total violation of Armenian airspace, dropped at least 10 demolition and cluster bombs over the southern city of Kapan. The bombs hit the centre of town, killing 7 and wounding 34 civilians and causing extensive damage to buildings and structures in the city.

The Government of Armenia requests that the Security Council and the international community manifest the appropriate reaction to these latest violations of international law and Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993) by condemning unequivocally the authorities of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan remains responsible for the expansion of the conflict and the escalation of violence in the area. The Government of Armenia is appalled by repeated strikes against centres of civilian population in Armenia by the Azerbaijani air force. Armenia has consistently requested that Security Council resolutions dealing with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict include specific condemnations of Azerbaijani air attacks. The incomprehensible refusal of the Security Council to do so when the Azerbaijani air force bombed Vardenis and Kapan last month can at best be construed as a sign of indifference and at worst an act of encouragement. A clear condemnation by the Security Council could help to redress this imbalance.

The substance of the informal consultations held on 17 August 1993 by the Security Council has raised further doubts regarding the ability of the Council to act objectively. The Government of Armenia is appalled by the willingness of the Security Council to act upon a one-sided, biased report from Baku. I am authorized to state that, as an open and democratic State, Armenia is ready to

accept United Nations observers who would be free to determine for themselves the situation on Armenia's borders, the damage caused by Azerbaijani shelling and bombings and the situation of refugees from Azerbaijan in a Republic under four years of blockade from Azerbaijan.

We are surprised that the Council is willing to consider the question of enclaves so lightly when it was unwilling to condemn the Azerbaijani occupation last year of Artsvashen, an Armenian enclave situated within Azerbaijan.

Considering the checkered history of this conflict, it would be highly inappropriate for the United Nations to formulate questions or reach conclusions on the basis of information clearly intended for propaganda purposes.

The Government of Armenia expects the United Nations to ensure that Azerbaijan complies with Security Council bans by taking a clear position on Azerbaijani military operations and especially the bombings of civilians.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative